

Message Text

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11

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01

AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IGA-01 /065 W

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P 040320Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4809

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4838

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF VS HK

SUBJECT: SITREP -- VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: STATE 103947 AND 104023

1. HKG IS BEING FULLY COOPERATIVE IN MEETING OUR REQUESTS (REFTELS). ON SWISSAIR GROUP ACCOMPANIED BY AMCIT MILLS, THEY WILLING TO ACCORD TO A WEEK'S EXTENSION OF STAY IN HONG KONG. ON THE ANTICIPATED 3,000 ARRIVING ON DANISH SHIP TODAY, HKG HAS TAKEN A VERY COMPASSIONATE AND HELPFUL VIEW AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE NEED TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM. HKG POLAD EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE US PROBLEM IN HANDLING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES GIVEN BOTH THE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES AND CONGRESSIONAL AND US PUBLIC OPINION ATTITUDES.

2. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT ICEM TODAY. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED HONG KONG VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WITH ICEM AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. PRIMARY DIFFICULTY IS ABSENCE OF ICEM SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN BANGKOK DEALING WITH REFUGEE SITUATION THERE. ONLY OTHER PROFESSIONAL ICEM MEMBER IS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE AND REMAINDER OF OFFICE IS SMALL GROUP OF CLERICAL PERSONNEL. ICEM PERSONNEL ALSO HAVE NO VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE CAPABILITY BUT PRESUMABLY SOME OF REFUGEES WILL HAVE ENGLISH CAPABILITY AND BE WILLING TO SERVE AS INTERPRETERS.

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3. SINCE HKG IS TAKING A VERY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR GOOD FAITH IF WE COULD DO SOMETHING FAIRLY RAPIDLY ON THE 58 WHO ARRIVED BY SWISSAIR AND 15 ON AIR AMERICA. MOST OF THESE HAVE CLEAR US TIES AND FIT INTO THE "HIGH RISK" CATEGORY.

4. NUMERICAL SITUATION IN HONG KONG REMAINS THE SAME: 58 FROM SWISS AIR FLIGHT, 15 FROM AIR AMERICA FLIGHT, 18 STRANDED AIR VIETNAM EMPLOYEES, AND ANTICIPATED DANISH SHIPLOAD OF 3,000. CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK04838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0420
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacxas.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 103947, 75 AND 104023
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP -- VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG
TAGS: SREF, VS, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006